

Subject: Letter in support of HUSKY 4 Immigrants (HB6616)

Hartford's Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs supports HB6616, "extending Husky coverage to all regardless of immigration status". Based on the general facts that other testimonials have affirmed—regarding the impact of lack of insurance falling more heavily on residents of color and the states that do provide insurance regardless of immigration status, we point to the fact that residents, especially those without documentation, are supporting CT through their labor, contributions to our state economy and presence in our communities.

For many families with mixed status households, the lack of Husky coverage for some members of the household, and not others, increases the stress for those managing the household's health resources. We also note that according to research compiled by the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut, the majority of CT residents sampled support affordable health care for all, including the undocumented.

We know that our communities are safer and more prosperous when ALL residents (who work, live in, pay taxes and otherwise contribute to our society)—most especially our youth, who are the future of this state--have the right and the access to high-quality health care. We urge the Human Services Committee to move this legislation forward to help address health inequities within the state of Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L Bauer, Co-Chair

Commission on Refugee and Immigrant Affairs—Hartford, February 13, 2023